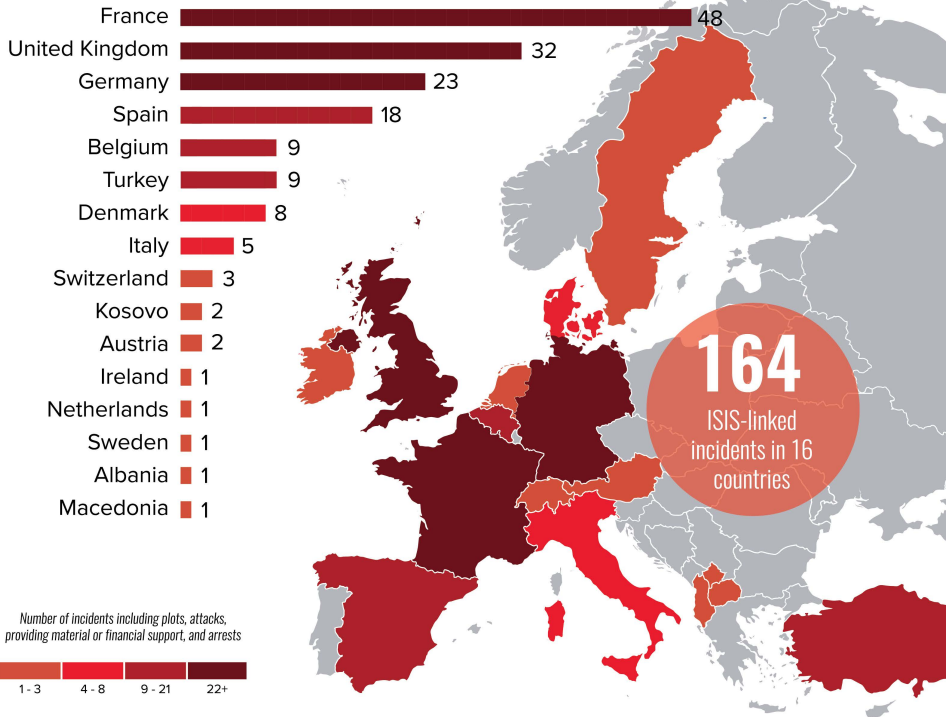




## TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE

Number of ISIS-linked incidents in Europe since 2013



## ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST

Incidents since 2013 broken down by weapon



**74 CASES**

Where ISIS used or attempted to build or use explosives



**19 CASES**

Where ISIS used a vehicle as a weapon



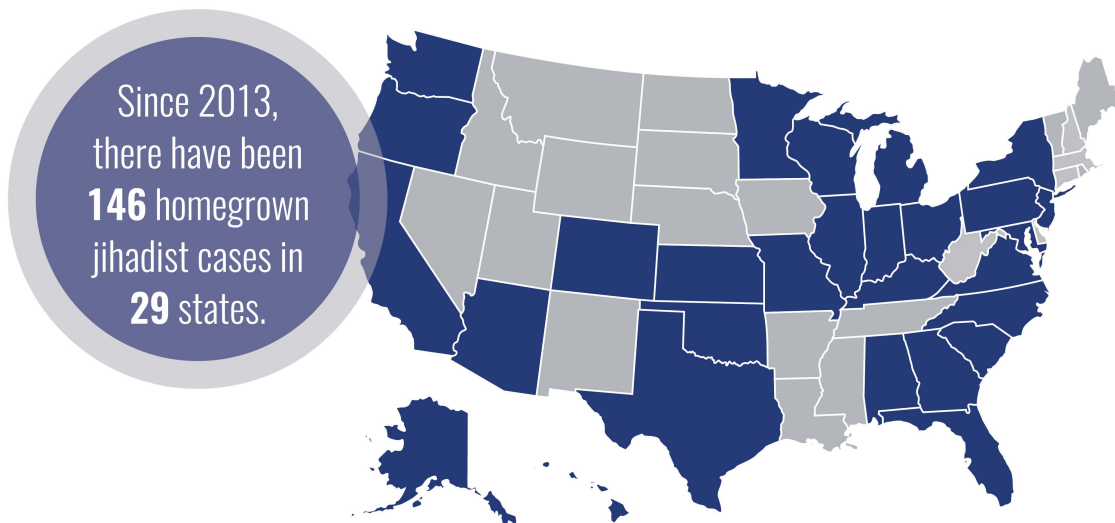
**55 CASES**

Where ISIS used an edged weapon

This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials. Plots and attacks utilizing multiple weapons are included in the totals for each weapon.

## THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA

Homegrown jihadist cases include plots to attack, overseas travel, financial support, lying to authorities, and weapons charges



Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

## KEY POINTS<sup>1</sup>

- ◆ At the Committee's [World Wide Threats hearing](#) on November 30, Department of Homeland Security Acting Director Elaine Duke [stated that](#), "DHS is improving almost every stage of the vetting process for U.S.-bound travelers." She continued, "Security checks are being brought into the digital age with measures like continuous immigration vetting, a real-time, systematic process that constantly analyzes visa files against law enforcement and intelligence holdings to identify possible matches to derogatory information." Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher Wray echoed calls for forward reaching security measures, specifically through section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. He [stressed that](#), "Section 702 is a critical tool that the Intelligence Community uses properly to target non-U.S. persons located outside the United States to acquire information vital to our national security. To protect privacy and civil liberties, this program has operated under strict rules and been carefully overseen by all three branches of the Government." National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen [urged](#) Members of Congress to remain aware of the threat posed by Homegrown Violent Extremists, "What we have seen over time is that HVEs—either lone actors or small insular groups—tend to gravitate toward soft targets and simple tactics of opportunity that do not require advanced skills or outside training. We expect that most HVEs will continue to focus on soft target, while still considering traditional targets, such as military personnel, law enforcement, and other symbols of the U.S. government."
- ◆ After Raqqa was reclaimed by the U.S.-led coalition, Secretary of Defense James Mattis [stated that](#), "Despite these successes our fight is not over. Even without a physical caliphate, ISIS remains a threat to stability in the recently liberated areas, as well as in our homelands." He continued that, "We are stabilizing the territory liberated from ISIS through continued engagement with our Iraqi partners. ISIS is opposed to all nations' civilized values, and we must remain focused on the common threat: denying them their sick and twisted objectives."
- ◆ ISIS fighters fleeing Syria and Iraq remain a top priority for security services around the world. Governments in the region and elsewhere, including [Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi](#) and [Kosovo's Interior Ministry](#), have expressed concerns about the threat. The Turkish government [believes that there are thousands of ISIS militants](#) in Syria waiting for the opportunity to cross illegally into the country, with the goal of eventually entering Europe.
- ◆ ISIS online presence remains a concern to security services around the world, despite efforts made to limit their ability to spread hate and encourage violence. Social media companies have begun removing radical propaganda from their websites, such as [YouTube removing 50,000 videos](#) of the radical preacher Anwar Awlaki. This is a step in the right direction, but the terrorist group continues to spread propaganda through social media sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span October 1 through October 31. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

- ◆ [November 14, 2017](#): Five coordinated nighttime attacks on Afghan security forces during a 36-hour left several dozen dead. The Taliban militants who conducted the attacks were equipped with night vision goggles and laser sights, and are believed to have used police and military vehicles to get close to targets without raising suspicion.
- ◆ [November 24, 2017](#): ISIS militants killed 305 and wounded 128 in an attack on a mosque in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Approximately 30 militants detonated a bomb outside the mosque, before opening fire on worshippers as they attempted to flee. The mosque is associated with Sufi sect of Islam, which ISIS views as heretical.

## **HOMEgrown ISLAMIST EXTREMISM**

- ◆ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 146 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

## **ISIS IN THE WEST**

### **Recent Developments**

- ◆ [November 3, 2017](#): An unidentified Australian teenager was arrested by Lebanese security services for attempting to travel to Syria and join ISIS. Lebanese officials claim that the teenager was in contact with ISIS recruiters, and had been radicalized by consuming ISIS propaganda online.
- ◆ [November 7, 2017](#): Ten people were arrested following a joint anti-terror operation by French and Swiss authorities. Several of those arrested had ties to ISIS. Nine of the suspects were arrested in France, and one was arrested in Switzerland.
- ◆ [November 10, 2017](#): A radio broadcast on a Malmo, Sweden based radio network was hijacked and played an English-language, ISIS recruitment song entitled, "For the Sake of Allah," for 30 minutes. No arrests have been made.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR

### *ISIS*

#### Operations Against ISIS

- ◆ [November 3, 2017](#): U.S. forces launched strikes against ISIS in Somalia for the first time this month. The group, which is a rival of the native al-Shabaab terrorist organization, has a small but growing presence in the country.
- ◆ [November 7, 2017](#): U.S.-led airstrikes against ISIS are at their lowest point this year, as the terrorist group [continues lose control over its last remaining strongholds](#) in both Syria and Iraq.
- ◆ [November 13, 2017](#): Five militants were killed in a series of airstrikes targeting ISIS in Al Bayda Governorate, Yemen. The strikes were carried out over the course of three days. The names of the targets have not been released.
- ◆ [November 14, 2017](#): Yusuf Demir, a senior ISIS media official; Omen Demir, a senior ISIS external operations coordinator; Abu Yazin, a senior weapons facilitator; and Abdellah Hajjiaou, an ISIS external operations plotter, were killed by U.S.-led coalition forces in a series of strikes. The removal of the four from the battlefield should help disrupt the terrorist group's external operations and media capabilities.
- ◆ [November 27, 2017](#): The U.S. conducted an air strike against ISIS in northeast Somalia killing one terrorist. The strike took place near the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, where ISIS seized its first town in Somalia.

#### Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks

- ◆ [November 7, 2017](#): An ISIS attack on a TV station in Kabul left one dead and two dozen wounded. Militants, armed with guns and grenades, who were disguised as policemen stormed the station. Afghan security services retook the station after three hours of fighting.
- ◆ [November 14, 2017](#): ISIS militants attacked security forces in Aden, Yemen, killing six. During the attack, a militant detonated an explosive-laden vehicle in a Saudi-led coalition operations center.

### *BOKO HARAM*

#### Recent Boko Haram Attacks

- ◆ [November 16, 2017](#): Four suicide bombers carried out attacks in northern Nigeria leaving 14 people dead and 29 wounded. Two men and two women targeted crowded areas of a suburb in Maiduguri, the capital of the Borno state.

- ◆ [November 21, 2017](#): A suicide bomber killed 50 in an attack on a mosque in eastern Nigeria. The attacker detonated his suicide vest as people arrived for morning prayers.

## ***TALIBAN***

### **Operations Against the Taliban**

- ◆ [November 21, 2017](#): A new campaign between U.S. and Afghan forces will target Taliban-run narcotic centers. As part of the campaign, terrorist-run drug labs will be identified and targeted with airstrikes.

## ***AL-SHABAAB***

### **Operations Against al-Shabaab**

- ◆ [November 13, 2017](#): U.S. airstrikes killed 40 militants, 36 of whom were al-Shabaab terrorists. The strikes also resulted in four ISIS terrorists being killed.
- ◆ [November 21, 2017](#): More than 100 militants were killed in strike on an al-Shabaab camp located 125 away from Mogadishu. The strike was carried out by U.S. forces, and marks the 29<sup>th</sup> strike by the U.S. against the terrorist group this year.

## ***SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS***

- ◆ [November 10, 2017](#): Zahir Khan, 40, of Sunderland, U.K. was arrested for terrorism offenses. Officials state that Khan disseminated terrorist material online, incited religious hatred, and encouraged terrorism.
- ◆ [November 22, 2017](#): One counterterror policeman and three suspected terrorists were killed in Tbilisi, Georgia. Four other policemen were wounded, and another suspected terrorist was arrested after the 20-hour-long operation. State security services believe that the men were part of a terrorist organization.